C.I.A. OFFICIAL DENIES RECORDS ARE SEPARATED

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 16 (AP)—A senior official of the Central Intelligence Agency denied Friday that the agency segregated records to prevent disclosure of embarrassing or illegal activities under the Freedom of Information Act.

John Blake, a C.I.A. deputy director, told a Senate subcommittee that he had never heard of any individual agency employee keeping a separate file of sensitive information that had been purged from official records.

The question was raised by Senator James Abourezk, Democrat of South Dakota, at Senate hearings on Government compliance with the Freedom of Information Act. The hearings are being conducted by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure.

Senator Abourezk indicated that he had heard such files were called "soft files" and contained information taken from official files. They were maintained privately to preclude discovery in any official search for information requested under the law because disclosure "might get someone in trouble," Mr. Abourezk said.